

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, and 13-16 are pending in this application. Claim 8 is amended by the present response. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 13-16 are allowed. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,122,170 to Hirose et al. (herein "Hirose").

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 13-16.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hirose, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Applicants initially note that claim 8 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein.

Specifically, claim 8 now recites "wherein a part pressed by said flange with said insulative material therebetween and a part on which said semiconductor element is mounted are physically continuous with each other in said first conductive pattern". Such a feature is believed to be fully supported by the original specification for example in Figure 5.

With reference to Figure 5 of the present specification as a non-limiting example, in a first conductive pattern 2, a part (e.g. an edge part) pressed by the flange 20 with an insulative material 8 therebetween and a part (e.g. a central part) on which a semiconductor element 5 is mounted are physically continuous with each other.

In contrast to such a feature now clarified in independent claim 8, Hirose shows in Figure 16B that a metal layer 2 pressed by a flange 3 and a conductive layer 8 on which a semiconductor element 6 is mounted are physically separated at all portions.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 8 positively recites features neither taught nor suggested by Hirose, and thus applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8 is also allowable.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims distinguishes over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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